

D. Pedestrian Environment

D-1 Pedestrian Open Space and Entrances

Convenient and attractive access to the building's entry should be provided. To ensure comfort and security, paths and entry areas should be sufficiently lighted and entry areas should be protected from the weather. Opportunities for creating lively, pedestrian-oriented open spaces should be considered.

Explanation and Examples

In business districts where pedestrian activity is desired, the primary function of any space between commercial buildings and the sidewalk is to provide visual and physical access into the building, and where possible, a space for additional outdoor activities such as vending, sitting or dining. Street fronts can also feature art work, street furniture, kiosks and landscaping that invite pedestrians to linger, thus activating commercial areas.

Where a commercial, mixed-use or residential building is set back from the sidewalk a sufficient distance, pedestrian enhancements such as those listed below should be considered in the resulting street front design:

- accented paving or walking surfaces
- street furniture such as benches or seating ledges built into the building or incorporated within landscaping features, and bicycle racks
- landscaping that enhances the space and helps to soften the zone where the building meets the sidewalk
- art that expresses local character
- visual and pedestrian access into the site from the public sidewalk
- overhead weather protection in the form of canopies, awnings, arcades or other elements of appropriate width
- signage appropriately scaled to pedestrians (see D-9)
- pedestrian-scale lighting and marquees (see D-10)

Guideline C-3: Human Scale

The design of new buildings should incorporate architectural features, elements and details to achieve a good human scale.

Explanation and Examples

The term "human scale" generally refers to the use of human-proportioned architectural features and site design elements clearly oriented to human activity.

A building has a good human scale if its details, elements and materials allow people to feel comfortable using and approaching it. Features that give a building human scale also encourage human activity.

The following are some of the building elements that may be used to achieve better human scale:

- pedestrian-oriented open space such as a courtyard, garden, patio, or other unified landscaped areas
- bay windows extending out from the building face that reflect an internal space such as a room or alcove
- individual windows in upper stories that
 - are approximately the size and proportion of a traditional window

- include a trim or molding that appears substantial from the sidewalk
 - are separated from adjacent windows by a vertical element
- windows grouped together to form larger areas of glazing can have a human scale if individual window units are separated by moldings or jambs
- windows with small multiple panes of glass
- window patterns, building articulation and other treatments that help to identify individual residential units in a multi-family building
- upper story setbacks
- a porch or covered entry
- pedestrian weather protection in the form of canopies, awnings, arcades or other elements wide enough to protect at least one person
- visible chimneys